

REMARKS

This Supplemental Preliminary Amendment is submitted to present the above amendments, and is further responsive in any other manner indicated below.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended at the information submitted on page 1 in the Preliminary Amendment filed 19 November 2003 to update the cross-reference identification of related applications, as well as to correct minor informalities and idiomatic English in the original description. No new matter is added.

PENDING CLAIMS

Unrelated to any cited art, scope or rejection in any prior application, new Claims 6-19 are presented herein to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, Claims 2-19 are simply clarified claims in which Applicant is presently interested. For example, the application now contains four parallel sets of claims, *i.e.*, Claims 2-4, 7 and 8 are directed to apparatus embodiments, while paralleling Claims 11-13, 16 and 17 (respectively) are directed to system embodiments; similarly, Claims 5, 6, 9 and 10 are directed to apparatus embodiments, while paralleling Claims 14, 15, 18 and 19 (respectively) are directed to system embodiments.

Upon entry of this paper, Claims 2-19 will be pending for consideration and examination in the present application.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (all made without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any objection/rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, *i.e.*, Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.


CONCLUSION

This Supplemental Preliminary Amendment is being filed prior to the mailing of an Action on the merits in this case, and is therefore timely, so no Petition or fee is possible or required. Moreover, attached hereto is a Form PTO-2038 authorizing payment of the additional claim fee for the claims presented herein. Please charge

any actual deficiency in required fees for entry of this paper to ATS&K Deposit

Account No. 01-2135 (referencing Case No. 500.38056CC4).

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
PTO-2038 (Fee Code 1201)